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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Special to Allied Health Professionals and
Related Health Fields

October 16, 1970

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Hostos Community College Offers Health
Sciences Programs with Unique Educational Approach

Hostos Community College, which started classes for the first time on September 14, 1970, is a college which offers a wide variety of programs in the arts and sciences and health sciences. Its career programs specialize in the health sciences, an area characterized by a critical manpower shortage and increasing career opportunities.

Hostos' health sciences programs are being planned according to the career ladder concept, which is designed to allow for maximum mobility within the hierarchy of health careers. Every student in the health sciences programs takes a curriculum unit called health core, which includes those concepts common and basic to all the health careers, while it provides the student with a time for exploring the diversified health field.

After completing the health core, the student selects a technical area within the health sciences curriculum. The college now offers programs in child care-early childhood education, medical and executive secretarial management, dental assisting-hygiene, medical laboratory technology, nursing, and radiological technology.

Each technical program is being designed to provide specialization .
For example, every nursing student will select an area of particular interest

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to emphasize in his or her last several months at Hostos. The area may be medical and surgical nursing, psychiatric nursing, maternal child health nursing, community health nursing, or long-term nursing. Another example of the opportunity for specialization is the radiological technology program, which will offer the Hostos student the option of becoming either an administrator or a teacher.

Projected for the future are programs in community health education, environmental health technology, respiratory therapy, mental health technology, mortuary technology, physician's associate, and rehabilitation technology (which includes occupational, physical, recreational, and speech therapies). All programs are articulated with senior colleges.

Dr. Marilyn E. Schima, Associate Dean of Allied Health Sciences, is responsible for the design and development of the health sciences programs at Hostos. Dr. Schima was formerly Chairman of the Department of Allied Health Sciences at Washington Technical Institute, Washington, D. C., and served on the President's Task Force on the War Against Poverty.

Hostos Community College--the eighth community college of the City University of New York--is located in the South Bronx, a predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhood, and the great majority of its 590 students are Puerto Ricans and Blacks. Hostos is named for the revolutionary Puerto Rican educator, Eugenio Maria de Hostos, thus making it the first college in the continental United States to be named for a Puerto Rican.

Hostos offers a unique educational approach that is designed to provide individualized instruction for its students based on the development of performance objectives. Subjects are organized into manageable units of instruction, and students proceed at their own pace to complete them. When a student demonstrates that he has acquired the skills and knowledge that make up the objectives of a unit of instruction, he receives the appropriate credit and begins another instructional unit. Computer-assisted instruction, films, audio-tutorial sessions,

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and programmed texts make possible this attention to individual needs.

The Hostos approach to learning eliminates such traditional academic concepts as semesters and grades. There is no "A" to "F" grading scale at Hostos; only a symbol for completion of a unit of learning and one to show continuing progress are used. Units of instruction called modules, which will take the average person six or seven weeks to complete, take the place of semesters or semester-length courses.

Because a student's progress is evaluated on the basis of what he has actually learned rather than the time he has spent learning it, performance of other students does not affect the individual student's progress. For example, if a student has a background in health work and backs up his experience with diligent study, he may complete his A. S. degree within as short a period as one year. Because of heavy job or family responsibilities, it may take another student as long as three years to complete the same work.

This flexible time schedule makes possible a system of ongoing admissions. New students are admitted to the college as other students complete their studies and space becomes available.

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